

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06384 270413Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 IO-14 INSE-00 /032 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5863
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 6384

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: EXPEDITING REFUGEE MOVEMENT

REF : (A) BANGKOK 17776, (B) STATE 161503

1. POST STRONGLY ENDORSESES BANGKOKS SUGGESTION REF (A) THAT ACVA BEGIN MEETING REFUGEE ARRIVALS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
2. ALL PRACTICAL INNOVATIONS WHICH RELIEVE CONGESTION IN MALAYSIAN BOAT REFUGEE CAMPS AND IN KUALA LUMPUR TRANSIENT CENTERS SURE TO BE WELL RECEIVED BY CONCERNED GOM AUTHORITIES.
3. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ARRIVALS IN U.S. WOULD NOT IMPOSE ANY SUBSTANTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OR FINANCIAL BURDEN ON EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION OR ON ICEM AND MRCS HERE IN KUALA LUMPUR.
4. REF B PARA 3, AT PRESENT, WITH CRUCIAL AIRLINE STRIKES, IT IS NECESSARY FOR ICEM/KL TO UTILIZE EVERY POSSIBLE BOOKING OUR TO KUALA LUMPUR. THEREFORE, REFUGEES OFTEN DEPART IN SMALLER GROUPS. IT IS ASSUMED THAT ONCE STRIKE PROBLEM OVER,
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REFUGEES WILL ONCE AGAIN TRAVEL IN LARGE GROUPS.

5. AT PRESENT, ICEM/KL MAKES EVERY ATTEMPT TONOTIFY ICEM/NY SIX DAYS IN ADVANCE OF REUFGEE DEPARTURE. IF NEEDED, ICEM/KL HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO INFORM ICEM/NY OF MALAYSIA REFUGEE DEPARTURES (PER SUGGESTION REFTEL B PARA 4), AT TIME POST ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TOHAVE REFUGEES BROUGHT FROM CAMPS TO TRAN-

SIT CENTERS. THIS WOULD ALLOW VOLAGS 2-3 WEEKS TO PREPARE FOR REFUGEES' ARRIVAL IN U.S. IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT BOOKINGS MADE AT THIS POINT ARE TENTATIVE AND QUITE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

6. HOWEVER, VOLAGS MUST BE AWARE THAT APPROX 15 PERCENT OF REFUGEES ON CALL-IN LIST END UP ON MEDICAL/ADMIN HOLD. THE AVERAGE HOLD IS 4 WEEKS.

7. THIS POST HAS INVESTIGATED PROSPECTS FOR CONDUCTING PRE-LIMINARY MEDICAL SCREENING AT THE CAMPS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INS ACCEPTANCE (PER QUERY PARA 5, REFTEL B). HOWEVER, AS EQUIPMENT FOR X-RAYS AND SEROLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS NOT AVAILABLE AT LOCAL RURAL MEDICAL CLINICS, ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL MEDICAL HOLDS COULD BE DETECTED THROUGH PRELIMINARY SCREENING.

8. IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM DOES CONDUCT A MEDICAL EXAM IN CAMPS, BUT ALSO BRINGS THEIR REFUGEES INTO KUALA LUMPUR TRANSIT CENTERS FOR X-RAYS AND SEROLOGICAL ANALYSIS BEFORE DEPARTURE. AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR ADMITS HE DETECTS VERY FEW MEDICAL PROBLEMS IN HIS PRELIMINARY SCREENING IN THE CAMPS AND THAT DESPITE THIS SCREENING THE PERCENTAGE OF AUSTRALIA-BOUND REFUGEES WHO ARE PLACED ON MEDICAL HOLD ONCE THEY ARRIVE IN KUALA LUMPUR TRANSIT CAMPS IS COMMENSURATE TO THE U.S. FIGURE.

9. SHOULD THE VOLAGS WISH TO BE INFORMED OF MALAYSIA REFUGEE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTURES AT TIME POST SENDS INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFUGEES TO BE BROUGHT TO TRANSIT CENTERS, ICEM/KL WOULD CONTINUE, PER STATUS QUO, TO INFORM ICEM/NY OF MEDICAL/ADMIN HOLDS AS THEY OCCUR.

10. POST WISHES TO REAFFIRM ITS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST VOLAGS, AS FEASIBLE, TO INCREASE AND EXPEDITE FLOW OF SPONSORSHIPS. MILLER

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